

ART. XXII.—*A System of Human Anatomy, General and Special.* By ERASMUS WILSON, M. D., Lecturer on Anatomy, London. Third American from the third London Edition. Edited by PAUL B. GODDARD, A. M., M. D. Prof. of Anat., &c., in Franklin Med. Coll. of Philadelphia. With two hundred and thirty-three illustrations by Gilbert. Philadelphia: Lea & Blanchard, 1847: 8vo. pp. 610.

THE fact that this work has gone through six editions,—three in England and the same number in this country,—in as many years, besides having been translated into German, and this, notwithstanding the numerous excellent treatises on anatomy already extant, affords sufficient proofs of its great merits. Having already expressed our opinion of the work (see our Nos. for Oct. 1842, and Jan. 1843), in noticing the present edition we need only say that the author has not neglected the advantages for revision afforded him, but that he has “carefully corrected such oversights and omissions as may have occurred,” that “many parts which seemed scantily treated, he has entirely re-written; and he has endeavoured to give as full a description of every point in anatomy, whether important or trivial, as is consistent with the limits and objects of a practical manual.”

The editor expresses his conviction that the time would come, we think it has already come, when it will be “useless to present to the public a work on science, unless it is accompanied with numerous and exact illustrations, as the road to the mind is so much shorter and easier through the eye than any other avenue.”

For beauty and copiousness of illustration, and clearness and conciseness of description, this beautiful volume leaves little to be desired.

ART. XXIII.—*Handbook of Human Anatomy, General, Special and Topographical.* Translated from the original German of Dr. ALFRED VON BEHR, and adapted to the use of the English student, by JOHN BIRKETT, F. R. C. S., and Demonstrator of Anatomy at Guy's Hospital. Philada.: Lindsay & Blakiston, 1847: 12mo. pp. 487.

THIS is one of a series of volumes entitled “*The Pocket Encyclopedia of the Medical Sciences*” by Dr. Von Behr and Dr. Minding, now in course of publication at Erlangen, and it is intended “to afford the student a short and comprehensive detail of anatomical facts,” to serve either as an introduction to the study of anatomy, or for refreshing the memory more especially of those preparing for examinations.

The first thirty-seven pages are devoted to an outline of general anatomy; then follows special anatomy, which the author treats of under the following divisions: Osteology, Anthrologia, Myologia, Splanchnologia, Angiologia, and Neurologia; and finally, we have in the concluding thirty-seven pages a brief topographical survey of the more important regions of the body.

The author has executed his task of treating of all these subjects within the bounds of this small volume, by carrying brevity and abbreviation to their utmost limits. It is impossible to convey any idea of the manner in which this is accomplished, except by extracts, and we shall accordingly give two or three. The following is the author's description of the gluteus maximus.

“340. 3. Gluteus maximus. Pos.: one inch thick, close beneath the skin of the buttocks; broad, four-sided; covers *glut. med.*, *pyriform.*, *gemelli.*, *obturat. intern.*, *quadrat. femor.*, *incisura ischiad. maj.*, *tuber ischiu.*, *Mm. semitendin.* and *membranos.*, *cap. long. bicipit.*; *trochanter major*, *adductor magn.*, *Nn. et vasa glutæa*, *ischiadic.*, *pudenda interna*. Or.: 1. posterior surface of *ilium*, behind *lin. semicircul. poster.* 2. *spina ilei poster. super.* as far as *cornu sacrale*. Ins.: *Linea aspera*, the external crus, close under *trochanter major femoris*, and *fascia lata*. Use: extends the thigh backwards, draws and rotates it outwards; or draws (when standing upon one leg), the pelvic half of the other side, backwards; stretches the *fascia lata*, and maintains the *os. coccygis* in its situation.

“Nerves: *glutæus infer.*”

The superior branches of the subclavian artery are thus described:—

“554. Superior branches of *Art. subclavia*.—1. *Art. vertebralis*, the vertebral artery, the largest branch of the *subclavia*, supplies the spinal cord, *medulla oblongata*, the small and the posterior parts of the great brain. Or: at the superior, posterior wall of the *subclavia*, at the commencement from the arch. Course: vertically upwards and rather backwards, it enters between *proc. transvers.* of the sixth cervical vertebra into the *canalis vertebralis*, and ascends, slightly curved, to the second, turns backwards between this and the *atlas*, more still between *atlas* and *foramen magnum* behind *proc. condyloid. occipit.*, and enters the skull through *lig. obturatorium* and *dura mater*, round to the front of *medulla oblongata*, ascends upon *pars basilaris*, and unites with the *art. basilaris* of the other side. Position: at first very deep between *m. longus colli* and *scalenus anticus*, behind *art. thyreoid. inferior*, then in *canal. vertebralis*, in the interspaces covered by *mm. intertransversarii* and before the *nn. cervicales*; the first curvature between *m. trachelomastoid.* and *obliq. infr.*; the second between *obliq. sup. rectus capit. minor* and *lig. obturatorium*; in the cranial cavity: at the sides and before *medulla oblongata*.¹¹”

The last extract we shall give is the following description of the parotid region:—

“691.—10. Parotid region, *Regio parotidea*, is bounded, anteriorly, by the posterior border of *ram. maxillar. infer.*; behind, by *proc. mastoid.* and *meatus auditor. extern.*; above, by *zygoma*; below, by the angle of the lower jaw, and a horizontal line backwards; internally, by *proc. styloideus*, *lig. stylo-maxillar.*,—*hyoideum*. The parotis occupies nearly the whole of this space, and is all round enclosed in fascia. Parts from without inwards: 1. Skin, slightly hairy (behind the beard of the cheek). 2. Close areolar tissue, having little fat, with branches of *n. auricular*, from *plex. cervicalis*. 3. Lymphatic glands. 4. Parotis; from it upwards: *art.*, *ven. temp.*, *rr. temporal.* *n. maxill. infer.*; behind: *art. auricular, post.*, and *rr. auricul. n. facial.* and *plexus cervical.* Inside the parotis: 1. behind, *n. facialis*, 6¹¹² deep; in front its branches 4¹¹² deep. 2. *V. parotidea*. 3. Deeper, *carotis externa*, close to the *proc. styloid.*¹²”

In conclusion, we may say that the arrangement of the work is excellent; and that the author exhibits entire familiarity with his subject, although his description of the structure of some of the tissues does not correspond with the accounts of the latest observers. The book is better adapted, however, to the German than the American student. The latter wants the dogged perseverance of the former, and requires to be enticed to his task by every aid which illustrations, &c., can supply.

We must not omit to notice the style in which this volume is put forth, and which is exceedingly creditable to the American publishers.